

VIOLENCE TAKES OVER



Police bombarded, demonstrators beaten: two sorts of violence with one result — mutual bitterness

(Report below, editorial page 4)

photos: left Graham Keen; below AP.

Top secret: US occupation plan

Below are extracts from Appendix 3 to Annex N Civil Affairs, of USINCEUR OPLAN NR 100-1 (U), emanating from Headquarters United States European Command.

It is in effect a draft treaty of occupation, giving the US Forces the right to put down civil disturbances, make arrests, and act with total immunity from the civil law of the country that signs it.

A Photostat of the document (marked SECRET) arrived in *Peace News* this week, accompanied by an authentication (marked TOP SECRET), signed by Major General B. E. Spivy, Director J-3 Division. This is dated October 1962. Whether this means everything is out of date we aren't in a position to say—however the draft is marked to be "Downgraded at 17 year intervals, not automatically".

Nor can we say whether this agreement has been signed, and with what countries. Defence Correspondents of larger newspapers might care to find out, or MPs could try asking questions in Parliament. Already the Dutch newspaper "De Groene Amsterdam-

mer" has broken the story (on March 2) and Dutch MP Hein van Wijk has put questions to his government. So far the British press has ignored the story—the D-notice system again?

Draft of an emergency status of forces agreement

It is assumed that such an Emergency SOF Agreement will be concluded in the form of an Exchange of Notes between the Foreign Ministry or other appropriate authority of (country) and the US Ambassador, or Commander of the US Forces in (country).

Substantive Provisions

2(b): The US Forces shall have the right to occupy any area or facility considered necessary for the accomplishment of their mission or for their safety and continued security, as determined by US military commanders [emphasis added] and to install such equipment therein as they shall deem necessary for these purposes.

(c): Military commanders of the US Forces may take such measures as they deem necessary to provide adequate security for their installations, personnel and equipment, and for the movement of supplies and personnel in (). In the event of acts of violence against US installations, equipment or personnel by persons other than members of the US Forces, such persons may be apprehended by the US Forces and turned over to the Government of () for appropriate disposition in accordance with the laws of that country.

(d): In the event of internal disorder which may materially affect the mission or security of the US Forces, such as armed violence or widespread rioting [emphasis added], the Government of () will endeavour to quell such disorders with its own re-

continued on back page



Kevin McGrath writes: It was glamorous in its way: fluttering banners with their undeniably emotional power (I swear I heard a man cry out "Rally round the Flag" and mean it); rearing, plunging horses over the heads of the crowd; the terrifying moment when the mounted police form into a line and charge: ersatz blood mixed with the real stuff: paper headbands replaced by real bandages.

The stuff of legends, if a bit contrived. Already the legends are crystallising and the chaotic reality is being moulded into something less complex, more ordered, more usable.

How many were there? Estimates range from 8,000 to 25,000. The lower figure is probably closer (assuming that most of those involved were

there as early as Trafalgar Square). The higher figure will likely enough be the one that is remembered.

How predetermined were the events in Grosvenor Square? What with Tariq Ali shouldering the blame/ taking the credit, and the press joining in, the impression that what happened was an organised militant attempt to storm the US Embassy is taking root. Whereas what really happened was essentially disorganised, with all but a relative handful interested (a) in avoiding serious trouble, and (b) in going where the police didn't want them to.

It is self-evident that if any but a tiny proportion of the thousands in Grosvenor Square had been determined to

continued on back page

INSIDE

Freedom, liberties and rights

Free Speech

Privacy under attack

The System-muddling through

Thailand direct action

Arab student leader gets 18 months

Bill Hillier writes: Halli Tuama, the Israeli-Arab student leader whose case has attracted the attention of the Western press, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment by a military court in Jerusalem on March 13. Nine months of the sentence will be suspended. According to local observers the trial, while being held in a military court, was fair and open: the public were admitted and full defence facilities were granted. Ahmed Khalifa, the man Tuama was accused of sheltering, was previously sentenced to two years.

The sentence on Tuama may seem harsh on a man whose only offence was sheltering (and in fact associating freely) with a man who was himself only accused of advocating non-cooperation. It can only be said that in other states which operate military regulations against civilians, the sentence would, in all likelihood, have been harsher.

TOP SECRET

from front page

sources. However should these measures prove ineffective, or should the Government of (.....) request assistance, or should the US military commander consider that the Government of (.....) does not possess the capability of quelling such disorders effectively or in time, the US Forces may take such action as the US military commander deems necessary, either unilaterally or in cooperation with the Government of (.....) [emphasis added].

(e): The Government of (.....) shall make available to the US Forces such information and intelligence reports as will assist them in achieving their mission or as the US military commander requests. [emphasis added]

(g): No civil action shall be brought in the courts of (.....) against any member of the US Forces.

(m): The Government of (.....) will furnish to units of the US Forces, free of charges of any kind and without present or future US liability for claims arising out of the US use thereof, installations and facilities which are deemed to be necessary to support US Forces in their mission. . . . The US Government will be under no obligation to restore these areas to their original use or to repair roads and bridges utilised by the US Armed Forces . . .

(n): . . . Authorised operators of vehicles of the US Forces shall be exempt from compliance with the local laws and regulations pertaining to the operation and use of vehicles.

(r): The Government of (.....) authorises the US Forces to bring nuclear weapons into (.....); to station them at such locations as may be deemed necessary.

(t): This agreement shall come into force immediately upon being signed by both parties and shall remain in force until ninety days after the departure of the US Forces from (.....) unless previously terminated by mutual agreement . . .

Final Clause

4: The Embassy of the United States of America (the Commander US Forces in (.....)) avails itself (himself) of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the assurances of its (his) highest consideration.

Violence in the square

from front page

get to the Embassy and committed violence to the point of personal risk, the police (1,500 plus 40 horses, more or less) could never have held them back.

But battle diagrams complete with little arrows and symbols for the opposing forces brainwash even those who were there into thinking that what they show adequately represents what happened.

There were organised groups, notably from the German student contingent. They were seen most spectacularly in action at Oxford Circus, when somewhat optimistically the police decided, after about half the march had passed, to take advantage of a gap to form a cordon across the street and prevent reinforcements reaching the Square.

By a bizarre coincidence the gap chosen was that just in front of the Germans. "They linked up arms, in rows of about fifteen, about 20 yards away from the cordon, and began a kind of dance, from one foot to another, chanting 'Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh'. Then they put their heads down and charged slowly, one row after another. The cordon broke when the first row hit. The police obviously

had never come up against anything like it."

More typical was the way in which the cordon into the central gardens in Grosvenor Square was broken. No sign of any organisation here, little sign indeed that many people were particularly interested in breaking the cordon. I wasn't for one—I was too busy trying to breathe, and wishing I had steel-capped toecaps to protect my feet. It was a question of more and more people crowding into a restricted space, until something gives, in this case the cordon. A woman screamed, and incredibly slowly the front part of the crowd began to collapse like a vast rugby scrum. From where I was—sandwiched about halfway up the pile—it seemed likely that those at the bottom must be killed, or at least badly hurt. Then into the gardens, where a widely scattered police cordon—more accurate to call it a picket, really—kept the Embassy end clear for perhaps ten minutes, with no one making a move to dodge through it. Finally one person made a dash for it, a handful, then everyone. At first there were even efforts to avoid trampling the daffodils.

Next came the missile throwing, building up from pebbles and earth to a barrage of clods of earth, pennies, sticks and, from those who had come prepared, "blood", smoke bombs, fireworks, and marbles. All leading up to the intervention of the mounted police, the clearing of the gardens, the last stand by the Roosevelt Statue, and the general shambles. Following which—apart from those in jail or hospital—we all went home.

And elsewhere...

Overshadowed by Grosvenor Square, a number of other demonstrations have been taking place during the last few days—less spectacular, but particularly so far as the first and last are concerned, possibly more relevant ones.

At Brighton 600 students (and some faculty) have been on 72-hour water-only fast in protest at Vietnam—to end Thursday, March 21, money to go to Red Cross in Vietnam, North and South. Fasters wore white armbands, as sign of mourning.

In Birkenhead on Friday, 50 people stood in bitter wind and hail to protest against launching of *Revenge*, Britain's fourth nuclear sub. Four demonstrators were turned out of the ceremony for trying to stop Lady Law (sic) getting to the platform to launch it, or interrupting the blasphemous Dean of Pembroke College, Cambridge, who said prayers specifically for the *Revenge* as well as its crew. Four clergymen were among vigilers.

In Birmingham over 400 people marched for peace in Vietnam on Saturday, March 16, including students, faculty members, MPs, clergy, trades union representatives, Anarchists, Liberals, Labour, and Communists. Local BCPV organisers say it was the most successful demonstration they have ever held. Meanwhile VSC supporters whose placards clashed with the agreed theme of the march had to hold a separate march 100 yards behind.

And in London, during the week up to March 17, PanAm Airways, the American Chamber of Commerce, and notably Dow Chemicals Ltd, Wigmor Street, were targets of demonstrations aimed at bringing out British involvement in the American economy and the Vietnam war. Jim Radford was arrested at the Dow demo—because he was speaking into a megaphone.

NCCL comments

Here is what the National Council for Civil Liberties had to say about Grosvenor Square:

The violence of the Grosvenor Square demonstration must be deplored. It was largely provoked by the organisers who failed to exercise any control and by individuals who had prepared for trouble.

Many demonstrators were opposed to attacks on the police but suffered from lack of direction and alternative means of expressing their protest. The police, it appears, did not learn the lesson of the last Grosvenor Square demonstration. The same cordon system was used with little attempt to keep the demonstrators on the move.

The invasion of the centre of the Square seemed to meet police expectations and provided the opportunity to use horses. These were often driven into the crowd and were instrumental in provoking further violence. The NCCL opposes the use of horses for crowd control and considers that the dangers were well illustrated.

There was widespread praise among those present for the restraint of the majority of police officers. With this the NCCL concurs. Unwarrantable brutality did occur when certain officers were provoked beyond endurance. However, a small number did seem to revel in attacks on demonstrators and bystanders. Truncheons were drawn too often and some officers had to be restrained by their colleagues.

A general analysis of the events leading to disorder, statements of the NCCL's 25 accredited observers, and other relevant statements will be submitted to the Home Secretary. The dossier submitted after the last Grosvenor Square demonstration received a frivolous response four months after the event and we trust that this time the answer will be more constructive.

It would be very wrong to draw false

conclusions from Sunday's disorder. Talk of curbing protests must be dismissed by all those who believe in free speech. Such repression would breed extremism. It is as well to recall that the violence committed by demonstrators bears no comparison with the violence perpetrated by the US and condoned by Britain. Public order is not merely the responsibility of demonstrators and the police. Conventional politics in Britain give little encouragement to sincere and relevant protest. Those who abhor events like the Vietnam war may feel that they have no alternative to militant action when politicians fail to respond to public feeling. Disapproving noises by politicians whose influence is on the decline, by the press, and self-appointed spokesmen for public opinion have little or no constructive value. Deaf ears make prophets shout louder.

The NCCL will seek to promote discussions on meaningful techniques of protest and to create more channels of communication between the police (who are the unfortunate victims of public anger about policies) and protesters.

Budget blues

What a week to put before you a budget for Peace News fund-raising over 1968-69!

Our auditors are still working on our annual accounts, but this much we know: printing rates are up 7½%, newsprint costs more, the blocks for our printers have gone up, and all those exactions that the Chancellor added on Tuesday are on our shoulders too. Thank God we own this building and no-one can put up the rent!

So it looks as though we have a five-figure problem, say £10,000 to find, over and above the income from sales. You contributed £6,000 last year towards a deficit of perhaps £8,000—a shortfall of £2,000 which is already

being felt in our cash position. Every week we need 6d a week extra from every reader. Leaving out students, pensioners and others who can't afford it, that means about £100 a week for the fund—or half our target for the year.

The other £5,000? Wait next week's revelation of how money can be given without any extra expense. Till then, however, three months of 1968 have rolled by—may we please, please have some arrears.

HARRY MISTER

Contributions please to Merfyn Turner, Treasurer, made payable to Peace News Ltd, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1. Total due from Feb 1 (seven weeks at £100 a week) £700.

D-DAY March 24

YCND 5 Caledonian Road London N1

DISSOCIATION DAY March to end British support for US policy in Vietnam

Assemble Kennington Park 2pm (Oval tube) Rally Trafalgar Square 3.30 pm

Speakers include John Ryan MP, Lord Gifford, Adrian Mitchell, Dick Nettleton